

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 AID-05 DODE-00 OMB-01 /056 W

----- 032070

R 141127Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 812

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

S E C R E T BANGKOK 2689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KINTNER, WILLIAM R.)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR KINTNER TO PHNOM PENH

REF: (A) BANGKOK 2443 (B) BANGKOK 2438

1. ACCCOMPANIED BY MY POLITICAL-MILITARY COUNSELOR AND STAFF ASSISTANT, I SPENT FOUR HOURS YESTERDAY IN PHNOM PENH CONSULTING WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN AND ADMIRAL GAYLER, WHOSE VISIT COINCIDED WITH MY OWN. I BELIEVE THIS TRIP WAS INVALUABLE AND THAT IT WILL SERVE THIS EMBASSY WELL IN OUR EFFORTS TO ENLIST AND MAINTAIN THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE THAI AUTHORITIES FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT CAMBODIA OUT OF THAILAND.

2. THE VISIT PRODUCED ONE POSITIVE RESULT EVEN BEFORE IT TOOK PLACE. THE EVENING BEFORE, WHILE PRESSING FOR APPROVAL OF THE 600 TON RICE SHIPMENT (REF B) THE POLITICAL-MILITARY COUNSELOR MENTIONED TO GENERAL KRIANGSAK THAT I WOULD BE GOING TO PHNOM PENH THE FOLLOWING DAY AND HOPED TO BE ABLE TO ADVISE AMBASSADOR DEAN THAT THE RICE HAD BEEN CLEARED. THIS HAD A MANIFESTLY GALVANIZING EFFECT ON KRIANGSAK, WHO ENQUIRED ABOUT DEPARTURE TIMES AND THE LIKE, AND UNDERTOOK TO PASS TO ME IN PHNOM PENH BY TELEPHONE THE FINAL DECISION ON RICE. HE DID SO, AND IT WAS AFFIRMATIVE.

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3. OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN ON CAMBODIAN

SUPPLY PROBLEMS PRODUCED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF NEEDS AND RELATIVE PRIORITIES IN CAMBODIA AND OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF SUPPORT FROM THAILAND, AND WE DEVELOPED SOME NEW IDEAS THAT WE HOPE WILL KEEP SUPPLIES FLOWING WHILE ELIMINATING SOME OF THE DELAYS AND HEARTBURN ON THE THAI END OF THE LINE. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO DISCUSS THESE WITH ADMIRAL GAYLER AND WITH USSAG COMMANDER, LT. GEN. BURNS. I BELIEVE WE MAY HAVE A SMOOTHER OPERATION IN THE FUTURE AS A RESULT.

4. WITH A NEW GOVERNMENT ABOUT TO BE INSTALLED IN THAILAND, I DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN POSSIBLE WAYS OF ENCOURAGING THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO DO A LITTLE MORE SPEAKING FOR ITSELF TO THE THAI. WE CONCLUDED THAT IT WILL BE USEFUL, AS SOON AS THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTER OF THAILAND IS NAMED, TO ENCOURAGE A VISIT TO HIM BY CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM.

5. I BROUGHT BACK WITH ME FROM PHNOM PENH LETTERS FROM ADMIRAL GAYLER TO GENERALS KRIT AND KRIANGSAK. THESE LETTERS EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR VARIOUS CAMBODIAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND. I AM SURE THAT THE RECIPIENTS WILL BE HIGHLY GRATIFIED BY THEM, AND THAT THEY WILL PRODUCE DIVIDENDS IN THE FUTURE.

6. TO SUM UP, THIS TRIP WILL ENABLE ME TO PRESENT OUR REQUIREMENTS AND REQUESTS TO THE THAI WITH AN IMMEDIACY WHICH I HOPE WILL INCREASE THE SPEED AND AFFIRMATIVENESS WITH WHICH THEY RESPOND.

KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO02689
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750055-0132
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750243/aaaabmol.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BANGKOK 2443 (B) BANGKOK 2438
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR KINTNER TO PHNOM PENH
TAGS: OVIP, (KINTNER, WILLIAM R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006